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THE  
NEW-YEAR's GIFT;  
CONTAINING  
The HISTORY of  
Master TOMMY THOROUGHGOOD,  
AND  
Master FRANCIS FROWARD,  
*Two Apprentices to the same Master,*  
To which is added,  
The HISTORY of  
Little POLLY MEANWELL,  
Who, by being Good, was afterwards  
QUEEN OF PETULA.

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ADORNED with CUTS.

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CHILDREN'S BOOK  
COLLECTION

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LOS ANGELES



THE  
*HISTORY*  
 OF  
 Master TOMMY THOROUGHGOOD,  
 AND  
 Master FRANCIS FROWARD,  
*Two Apprentices to the same Master.*

MASTER Thomas Thoroughgood, the younger son of a country gentleman, was put out apprentice to an eminent tradesman in *Cheapside, London.* The master finding his busi-

ness increase, was obliged to take another about two years after, who name was *Francis Froward*.

*Thomas* had behaved exceeding well, was very diligent and honest, as well as good: he used to say his prayers constantly every morning and night; he never went to play when he should be at church or about his master's business: never was known to tell a lye,



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nor never staid when he was sent on an errand. These rare qualifications had gained him **the** affections of his master and **mistress**, and made him a favourite in the family before *Francis* came to them. It was in a great measure owing to master *Tommy*'s character in the neighbourhood, that Mr. *Froward* was induced to comply with the master's demands, not doubting but his son, in such a happy situation, and with a companion of so sweet a disposition, would one day turn out to his satisfaction, and be a comfort to him in his old age.

*Francis*, in the first year of his apprenticeship, began to discover the natural bent of his inclination. He chose to associate with naughty boys in the streets, and seemed to place his whole delight in loose and idle diversions; he neglected the business of the

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shop when at home, and entirely forgot it when he was abroad. These, and many more indiscretions of the like nature, *Tommy Thoroughgood* concealed at first from his master, though not without some inward uneasiness.

In the fourth year's service, our young spark, who was an only child, and heir to a pretty fortune, gave farther proofs of his vicious turn of mind,



and frequently launched out in follies and debaucheries of a more heinous nature; for now he made no scruple of absenting himself from church on the Lord's day; always staid out late when he knew his master was engaged in company, and at such times very rarely returned home so er; nay, he had sometimes the assurance to lie out of his master's house all night. In order to deter him from pursuing this wicked course of life, Mr. *Thrushfield* threatened to inform his master of his scandalous behaviour, and to acquaint his parents of his misconduct. But alas! all these menaces proved ineffectual, and instead of working out his reformation, served only to heighten his resentment, and to raise daily squabbles and animosities between them. Hereupon Mr. *Thrushfield* finding all his good offices hitherto



thrown away at length determined no more to meddle in the affair, or even to offer his brotherly service; but to leave the unhappy youth to follow the dictates of his own perverse will; being resolved at the same time to take particular care that he should not, in any of his mischievous frolics, de-

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fraud his master, and therefore cast an odium upon his fellow-apprentice.

The master was chosen alderman of the ward, and Mr. *Thoroughgood* was out of his time in the same year: and



from his faithful service, and unblameable conduct, had now the whole ma-

management of the trade, as well broad as at home, committed to his care and inspection. This great charge obliged him to keep a stricter eye over *Francis's* behaviour, who was just entering into the last year of his apprenticeship, and imagined his actions were above the cognizance of one, who, the other day was but his equal ; and on this account would neither bear his reproof, nor hearken to his admonition ; but continued to riot in all the follies and degeneracies of human nature, till his apprenticeship was expired. So true it is, that *the wicked hateth the reproof, but the wise man lendeth his ear to instruction.*

Mr. *Francis* having been for a long while impatient of a servile life, was now become his own master, and seemed eager of putting himself upon a level with his late companion. To ef-

fect this, he goes down to his father, and prevails upon him to set him up in the business, that he might trade for himself. The reins where no sooner laid on his neck, then he gave a loose to his sensual appetites, and in little more than four years had a statute of bankruptcy taken out against him. The unexpected news of this fatal event instantly broke his mother's heart, nor did the old gentleman survive her long. Hereupon our heir was obliged to sell the personal and mortgage the real estate, to procure his liberty, and to satisfy the assignees. In this sinking situation, after the days of mourning were over, he lett the house his father lived in, and returned again to *London*, where he purchased a handsome equipage, commenced the fine gentleman, frequented the balls, masquerades, play houses, routs, drums,



*Etc. Etc.* and cut as good a figure as the best of them. But here let us leave him for a while, and turn our eyes to a worthier object.

In the same space of time which Mr. *Forward* took to squander away a good estate, Mr. *Throughgood* had, by his own industry, and from a small

fortune, gained one considerably better, and was in a fair way of encreasing it. The former made pleasure his business, but the latter made business his pleasure, and was rewarded accordingly. The alderman, who by his own application, and Mr. *Thoroughgood's* assiduity, was grown very rich, had no child now living but a daughter,



of whom both he and his lady were extremely fond; they had nothing so much at heart as to see her well settled in the world. She was the youngest, and just now turned of twenty. She had many suitors, -but- resolved to encourage none without the consent of her parents, who would often, when by themselves, tell her that it was their joint opinion she could not dispose of herself better than to Mr. *Thomas*, and would frequently ask how she liked him? for they would be unwilling to marry her against her own inclination. Her usual answer was, "Your choice shall be mine; my duty shall never be made subservient to any sensual passion." This reply was not so full and expressive as they expected; and as mothers are commonly very dexterous in finding out their daughters maladies, madam had



a good reason to believe, from some observations she made on mis-behaviour, that her affections were already fixed, and that she was deeply in love with somebody else, which was the cause of her unusual anxiety. Hereupon, as she was sitting at work one evening in a melancholy posture, they called her and desired to be informed

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whether the husband they proposed was disagreeable to her, if so, she should chuse for herself.

The young lady (after some hesitation) with blushes confessed her regard for Mr. Thoroughgood; which gave infinite satisfaction to the alderman and his lady, who were overjoyed at the prospect they had of marrying their daughter to a person of such prudence integrity, and honour.



The next day, as soon as dinner was over, the alderman and his lady withdrew, and left the two lovers together all the evening; from this interview they became sensible of each other's approaching happiness, and



about a month after were joined together, to the great satisfaction of all parties concerned. From this day the bridegroom was taken into partnership, and transacted the whole business himself. In process of time his father-in-law died, and left him in possession of all his substance. He succeeded him also in his dignity, and after hav-

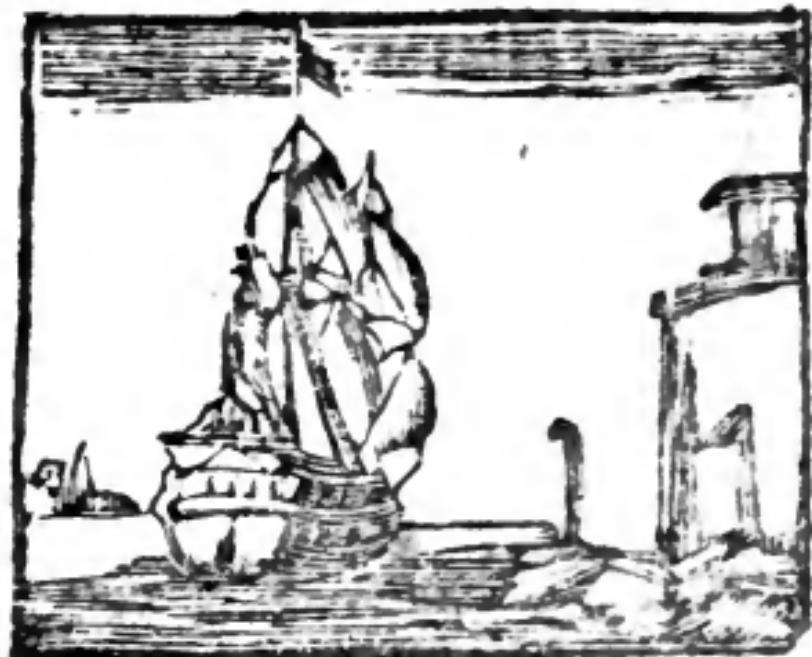


ing served the office of sheriff, was in a few years called to the chair.

Mr. Foward, whom we left a while ago pursuing his pleasures and wicked inclinations, had long before this time been reduced to poverty; and, like many other thoughtless wretches, he took himself to the highway and gaming-table, in hopes of recovering a lost fortune. He had followed this

destructive trade with some success, and, without being discovered, above three years; but at length was taken near *Enfield*, and brought to his trial at the *Old Bailey*, during his fellow-prentice's mayoralty, and cast for life. When he was brought to the bar to receive sentence, his lordship recollecting Mr. Foward's name, examined who he was, and asked if he was not the same person that served his time with Mr. Alderman\*\*\*, in *Cheapside*. This he positively denied; but notwithstanding himself, his person and speech betrayed him. My lord, animated with principles of the compassion and benevolence and imagining that his design of concealing himself in his wretched situation might very probably proceed from shame or despair, took no farther notice of it in court,

but, forgetting his present disgrace, as well as his former arrogance, and discretion, privately procured his sentence to be changed into transportation for life.



The ship in which Mr. Egward embarked, by fits of weather drove into a certain port in Jamaica, where



he, in less than ten days, was sold to a noted planter, and doomed to perpetual slavery. You may imagine how shocking this prospect must appear to a gentlemen, who had just before squandered away a good estate in indolence and pleasure, who never knew what it was to work, nor had ever given himself time to think upon the nature of industry. However, he no sooner began to reflect upon his



present wretched situation, and his late providential deliverance from death, than he also began to repent of his former transgressions; and finding himself in a strange country, unknown to any person about him, he patiently submitted his neck to the yoke, and endured his servility with an uncommon fortitude of mind. In the first place, he determined, during

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all the time of his labour, to offer up continual thanksgiving to Almighty God for his manifold mercies bestowed on so unworthy a creature, and to devote all his leisure hours to the duty of repentance. His next resolution was to obey his master's commands, to obey him faithfully, and to perform whatever business was imposed on him, so far and so long as his health and strength would permit; not doubting but the same God, who had preserved him hitherto, in such a wonderful manner would accept the oblations of a contrite heart, and enable him to go through it with courage and cheerfulness.

The first month's service, as he himself told me, went very hard with him. His hands blistered, his feet grew sore and raw, and the heat of the cli-



mate was almost insupportable; but, as custom makes every station familiar, before three months were expired, all these grievances were at an end; and he, naturally endowed with a spirit of emulation, would not suffer himself to be outdone by any of his fellow slaves. The superintendant observing his extraordinary assiduity, could not help taking notice of him, and would frequently give him encouragement,

either by calling him off to go on a trivial errand, or by thrusting some money in his hand. He behaved in this manner near two years, when his master was informed of his good disposition, and removed him from that laborious employment to an easier, where he had more frequent opportunities of paying adoration to that Almighty Being, who supported him under all his afflictions. In these intervals, he was generally found with a book in his hand, or on his knees, from which practice he received great consolation, as he often assured me.

At the expiration of three years, Sir Thomas Thorougood, who made previous enquiry after his fellow-prentice's behaviour abroad, sent orders to his agent in *Jamaica*, to purchase Mr. Foward's freedom, and to advance him 100*l.* that he might be enabled to get his own livelihood; but

at the same time gave strict orders to his friend, not to let Mr. Froward know who was his benefactor, and to lay his master under the same injunction. In a short time after Mr. Froward was discharged from slavery; but did not express so much joy on the occasion, as might have been reasonably expected. From the good usage he met with in servitude, and the unusual favours he received from the superintendent, as well as the planter, he had conceived a great liking for the latter, and seemed to part with him not without some inward reluctance, though with apparent surprise; which was much heightened by the additional favour of a note for a hundred pounds payable upon sight to Mr. Francis Froward or order, delivered to him by the same hand, soon after he received the discharge before men-



tioned. During this confusion, the gentleman, who really had a value for his late servant, told him he was welcome to be at his house till he was settled, and that he would do all the good offices in his power, to promote his future welfare. Mr. Foward replied, "Sir, you cannot do me greater service than to let me know who is my generous benefactor; because it is incumbent upon me to make

"some acknowledgment." The master positively refused to do this, and turned off the discourse, by asking how he intended to dispose of himself and money. "Sir, (says he, I am "not unacquainted with the nature "of trade, and labour is now become "habitual to me, and as I am well "skilled in the cultivation of the su- "gar cane, I would willingly rent a "small plantation of that kind, and "work upon it for myself." The planter approved of this design, and promised him assistance.

In about a month after, Mr. Foward met with a bargain, agreeable to his substance, and worked upon it as hard as if he had been a real slave, with this difference only, that he could now spare more time in the service of his all powerful Redeemer. In the interim, his late master procured him



a wife, with a handsome fortune, who had a sugar-work of her own, and some negroes; he purchased more, and, by his industry, thrived a main, and in a few years laid up 100*l.* in specie.

In this comfortable state, nothing gave him uneasiness, but that he could not come to the knowledge of his kind benefactor; never was man more anx-

ious to shew his gratitude, or more solicitous to find out his friend! One day as he was at his devotions, a strange gentleman came to his habita-



tion, and desired to see him. He was no sooner admitted, than he accosted him in the following manner: "Mr. *Forward*, I am commander of the *Dore* frigate, whose principal own-

“ er is Sir *Tho. Thoroughgood*, and art  
“ just arrived from *England*: By Sir  
“ *Thomas's* orders I am to inform you  
“ that his *Jamaica* agent is dead, and  
“ he has made choice of you to suc-  
“ ceed him here in that station. I have  
“ a commission from him, for you, in  
“ my pocket to dispose of my cargo,  
“ and to freight me again for my vo-  
“ age home. He never would own it,  
“ but I am well assured, he is the per-  
“ son who saved your life, who re-  
“ deemed you from bondage, and was  
“ the sole instrument of your present  
“ prosperity.” Nothing could have  
given Mr. Foward so great pleasure  
and satisfaction, as this last piece of  
intelligence; he knew not how to  
make the captain welcome enough, he



kept him all night, and in the morning made him a present of a hogshead of rum. He made all the possible dispatch in disposing of his cargo, and freighted him out with the utmost expedition. With the rest of the goods, he sent Sir Thomas ten hogsheads of sugar, and as many of rum, for a present, with the following letter,

“Honoured Sir,

Transported with joy, and drowned in tears, I send this testimony of my esteem, of which I humbly hope your acceptance, as well as of those small tokens of my gratitude with which it is accompanied. Next under God, 'tis to you, dear Sir, that I owe, my life, my liberty, and my all. Happy me, had I listened to your advice in my nonage! happy still, as by your means, I have been directed to the paths of virtue. 'Tis to you I am indebted for my present comfortable situation and the dawning prospect of future happiness; the bills of lading, &c. are sent by Mr. \*\*\*, and all your business here, with which I am entrusted, shall be executed with the utmost diligence and fidelity. I have only to add my prayers for the conti-

nuation of your life and health, who have been so beneficial to many, but more particularly to, Honoured Sir,

your most unworthy servant,

FRANCIS FROWARD."

Sir Thomas was highly pleased with the purport of his letter, though he rallied the captain for letting him know to whom he was obliged for his freedom. The same ship was sent the next season on the same voyage, when the captain was ordered to pay Mr. Foward the full price for the rum and sugar he had sent to the knight, and to deliver him the following letter.

Mr. FROWARD,

" Sir,

I thank you for the acknowledgment you made for the good offices I did you, and shall ever esteem the present as it was intended ; but have neither power nor inclination to rob you of any thing you have acquired by dint of merit. My design is, to add to your acquisitions, and not to diminish them, as you will experience : only persevere in your present course of life, and you will make me ample amends for all I have, or can do for you.

I am, Sir, your real friend,

T. THOROUGHGOOD."

Mr. Froward, who was uneasy that his friend refused his present, continued in a thriving condition several years. And now his wife died without issue; he, grown very rich, and advanced in years, disposed of the sugar-work, and left off all manner of business, except that of Sir Thomas Thoroughgood's. At length he himself



was seized with a pestilential fever, and carried off in a few days. He bore the the torture of his distemper with exemplary patience, and met his approaching destiny with an intrepidity of soul scarce to be paralleled. That you may the better judge of his sentiments of gratitude, I have herewith sent a copy of his last will.

In the name of God, Amen. I *Francis Froward* of —, in *Jamaica*, being sound in mind and memory, do hereby make my last will and testament, in form and manner following, that is to say;

*Imprimis*, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God that gave it, hoping, and full trusting, that I shall be saved and made eternally happy by the merits of my dear Redeemer *Jesus*

*Christ*, who suffered for me and all mankind.

*Item.* As the poor convicts in prison, where I had once the misfortune to be confined, are not attended and instructed as they ought to be, by persons who seek their eternal salvation ; I do give and bequeath fifty pounds a year, to purchase for their use such books as the archbishop of *Canterbury*, the bishop of *London*, and the sheriffs of *London* and *Middlesex* shall think proper to put into their hands.

*Item.* As the laws of *England*, however wisely constructed, have made no provision for poor people born in distant parts, and become miserable there, but left them to perish in the streets, lanes, and public places ; I do give and bequeath five hundred pounds a year, to be laid out for their relief, in such a manner as shall seem most agreeable to the lord mayor of *London*, for the time being

and to the trustees that shall be nominated by my executors.

*Item.* And as many poor tradesmen and labourers are artfully seduced and persuaded to enter themselves on board merchant-ships for this and other colonies in his majesty's dominions: and are afterwards at sea unwarily drawn in to indent themselves servants to the owners of the vessel, and from that moment commence slaves, and as such are sold in the public markets of the colonies, and generally ill-treated; I do give and bequeath five hundred pounds a year for the redemption of such unhappy people and for the prosecution of those who have been the abettors and contrivers of their ruin.

*Item.* As gratitude is of all oblations the greatest and most acceptable, I do give and bequeath to my dear friend Mr. *Thomas Thoroughgood*, merchant in *London*, who saved me from an ignominious

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death and redeemed me from slavery, all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate ; and I do nominate and appoint him, and his heirs and executors, my heirs and executors for ever. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this thirdday of *May*, 1680.

Witness,

FRANCIS FROWARD.

*Thomas Williams,*  
*John Wilson,*  
*Richard Jones.*



THE  
HISTORY  
OF LITTLE  
POLLY MEANWELL,

Who was afterwards the

QUEEN of *PETULA*.

*POLLY MEANWELL*'s father and mother died when she was very young, and left her to the care of an uncle, who was an old rich bachelor, covetous to the last degree, and one

who cared for nobody but himself. He put her to school a little after her parents death, but finding that by a flaw in some writings, he had the power of taking every thing to himself, he did so, and deprived poor *Polly* of what her father and mother left for her subsistence, and turned her out of doors.



*Polly* was at first very uneasy at losing all her fine cloaths, and at being obliged to go to hard work, which Mr. *Williams*, the parson of the parish, observing, that good man came to her one day, and comforted her in this manner. “Don’t be cast down, “*Poly*, at your fine cloaths being “gone, those ragged ones will keep “you warm, and that is the only use “of cloaths; for people are not a bit “the better for wearing fine garments. “’Tis true, you can’t have your tea “and your coffee, your tarts and your “cheesecakes, your custards and syllabubs as usual, but what does that “signify? You can by your labour “get other victuals: then your working for it makes it go down the “sweeter, and at the same time keeps “you in health; the bed you lie upon seems as soft, after a hard day’s

" work, as your down beds, I suppose  
" used to be; why then should you  
" be uneasy? Be a good girl, say  
" your prayers, and put your trust in  
" God Almighty; and he will give  
" you what his all-knowing wisdom  
" sees you want." *Polly* was so pleased  
with this speech, that she dropt  
Mr. *Williams* a courtesy, and, for the  
future, resolved to mind nothing but  
her duty, and not repine at Provi-  
dence.

As she went to church constantly,  
and was very devout there, every body  
took notice of her, and one mer-  
chant's wife in particular, sent to the  
sexton to know what little ragged girl  
that was that came to church constant-  
ly, and behaved so well there. The  
sexton answered, that 'twas *Polly*  
*Menzwell*; and, " Madam," said he,  
" though *Polly* is so poor and so rag-



" ged, she is the best girl in the pa-  
" rish." " Is she so?" says the lady,  
" then pray give her this new bible,  
" and this piece of money;" and put  
into his hand a crown for her. Some  
time afterwards, this lady, who was  
very rich, dropped, as she was step-  
ping into her coach, a green purse full  
of guineas, and a fine diamond ring,  
which *Polly* had the good fortune to  
pick up. Now some naughty girls

would have kept all this money, and not have carried it to the lady ; and indeed one of her neighbours advised her to do so. But *Polly* was angry with



her, and told her, she was a wicked woman to put such naughty things into a little girl's head. " How can I

" go to church and say my prayers to  
" God Almighty, says she, and at the  
" same time be guilty of such a dis-  
" honest thing? and what good do you  
" think this money will do me? why



" none; 'twill only corrupt what lit-  
" tle I get by my labour, and make  
" God Almighty angry with." So  
she got a paper wrote, and nailed it  
up at the church door, to let every

body know that *Polly Mawell*, the little ragged girl, had found a large sum of money, and a fine diamond ring, and that the owner might have it on describing the purse and ring.

They lady hearing of this, sent for *Polly* and described the purse and ring, which *Polly* returned to her, who gave her ten guineas. "And now, *Polly*," says she, "as I know you are a very honest, religious, and good girl, I will provide for you. Go into the next room, and strip off your ragged cloaths, and put on those new ones you'll find on the great chair, and you shall wait on my daughter to the *East Indies*; where, if you behave in the same manner you have hitherto done, you will become a great woman; for God Almighty will certainly bless you."



Some years after this, and when *Polly* was grown a woman the lady set off for the *East-Indies*, and *Polly* with her. But in their passage, they were taken by *Angria* the pirate; and poor *Polly*, being a beautiful girl was again reduced to great distress for *Angria* made several attempts on her virtue, and because she would no

comply with his wicked desires, he put her into a dark prison, and would not suffer her mistress to see her. Now this happened at a time when *Kolan-mi-Dolan* a very rich king in *India*, came to visit his dominions ; for part of which, *Angria* the pirate paid him a tribute ; and she having been punished on account of her virtue, procured her freedom of *Angria*, and took her with him to his palace of *Iftchan*.

King *Kolan-mi Dolan* intended to make her one of his concubines ; but *Polly* was determined not to be guilty of any thing so wicked, she therefore fell on her knees to him and said,



“ O king! you have done a glorious  
“ action in delivering me from that  
“ wicked man *Angria*, for which I  
“ hope God Almighty will amply re-  
“ ward you; for he hath promised to  
“ be a friend to those who defend the  
“ innocent, and support the helpless.  
“ Do not therefore, O king, lose the

“ blessing of the Almighty, and fully  
“ your own honour, by depriving me  
“ of my virtue, which I hold more  
“ dear than life itself. Ah! why  
“ should you for a sensual gratifica-  
“ tion, a momentary pleasure, make me  
“ miserable for ever? Consider, I be-  
“ seech you, before whom you stand:  
“ God Almighty takes notice of your  
“ actions as well as mine, nor can  
“ these things be hid from his sight:  
“ for the darkness is no darkness with  
“ him; but the night is as clear as  
“ the day. You and all your hosts  
“ are but as nothing with respect to  
“ him. Look in the charnel houses  
“ of your fathers, where is now their  
“ power, their pomp, their gran-  
“ deur? they are now but dust, and  
“ mingled with the dross of mankind.  
“ Why then should pride tempt you to  
“ provoke God, or wickedness prompt

“ you to commit a sin, which perhaps  
“ may be your overthrow? Kill me  
“ you may, but you shall never deprive  
“ me of my virtue and honour.”

*Kolan mi Dzlan* was so surprised at this heroic answer, that for a considerable time he could make no reply: he was dumb with amazement, and fixing his eyes on the beloved object, he



resolved in his soul the instability of human grandeur, the majesty of the deity, the dignity of virtue, and the power and persuasive force of kneeling artless innocence. He then raised *Polly* from the ground, and addressed himself to her in these words: "O my divine creature! " thou art marked out by Providence to " read me the lecture I most wanted, to " teach me to turn my thoughts to their " proper centre, and to search the bot- " tom of my heart. Ambition, pride, " luxury, and revenge had planted " themselves there: but thou hast, by " thy prudence and angelic virtue, ba- " nished them thence. I now see my- " self, and admire and adore thy supe- " rior sense and virtue. Be my compa- " nion for life, and I will this moment " discharge all my concubines, the crea- " tors of my luxury and folly, and make " myself for ever happy with thee only."

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He then married miss *Polly* in the most  
solmen manner, according to the cere-  
monies of her religion, and built for  
her a palace of jasper, the front of which  
was overlaid with pure gold, the floor  
paved with pearls and diamonds, and the  
cielings adorned with the most curious  
paintings of sacred history. She had a  
large garden richly decorated with the



finest grottos, groves, mazey walks, fountains, and purling streams. The turf in it bears continual verdure, the most delicious fruits bow down the labouring branches, to salute the enchanted eye, and the never-fading flowers pay an eternal tribute to her piety and virtue. Here she every evening recreates herself with those ladies of her court who



are most distinguished for their virtue and good sense; but her mornings are always spent in hearing the complaints of her people, and promoting their happiness. Virtues or vices fly from the court, and disperse themselves through a country, in the same manner as the fashions and garbs of cities; what is sworn by the great will be al-

ected by the meaner sort. Hence it followed, that the morality and good principles cultivated at court, by miss  ~~Polly the Queen~~, were soon spread throughout all the kingdom, and it became fashionable to be virtuous and honest. And what was at first introduced through fashion, is now maintained through prudence; for as it became unfashionable to be wicked, the murders, adulteries, robberies, thefts. &c. with which the nation was continually plagued before, were now not so much as heard of, and the people found, that in consequence of being **VIRTUOUS** they became **HAPPY**.

FINIS.





